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LETTER DATED 28 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BENIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you of the following:

The Standing Mediation Committee and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Committee of Five on Liberia held their first joint Summit meeting on 20 October 1992 at Cotonou, Benin, under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Nicéphore D. Soglo, President of the Republic of Benin and Acting Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Among other decisions it took relating to the restoration of peace, security and stability in Liberia, which has been torn by civil war since December 1989, the joint meeting decided to send a ministerial mission to the Security Council in New York for the following purpose:

- To report on the latest developments in connection with the aforementioned crisis, in particular, the fact that the situation has deteriorated, thereby hindering the creation of conditions conducive to the holding of democratic elections, in accordance with the Yamoussoukro IV Accords of 30 October 1991, which also provide for the confinement and disarmament of the belligerent troops under the supervision of the Economic Community Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), the intervention force of ECOWAS.

- To request United Nations assistance in connection with the application by the international community, in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, of sanctions against those parties to the conflict that do not respect the provisions of the Yamoussoukro IV Accords; the sanctions in question would consist of a blockade of all points of entry to Liberia - by land, air and sea - in order to prevent them from having access to war matériel and from exporting products from the zones they control in the country.

- To request the presence of a group of United Nations observers to facilitate the verification and monitoring of the electoral process in Liberia, on the understanding that, in the spirit of the Yamoussoukro IV Accords, these observers would visit the country during the period of confinement and disarmament in order to build trust between the parties to the conflict.

The ministerial mission will be headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Benin and will include the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo as well as the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

In accordance with this decision, I have been instructed to ask you to call an emergency meeting of the Security Council on 4 November 1992, when this mission will be in New York, in order to consider the Liberian crisis, the persistence of which threatens peace and security, especially in the West African subregion.

(Signed) René Valéry MONGBE